# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
# VIRTUAL FELLOWS PROGRAM
# PROJECT DESCRIPTION – SCA/RA

This project seeks a Virtual Fellow to serve with the **Office of Regional Affairs, Bureau of South and Central Asia (SCA/RA)** as a **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Consultant.**

**Fellow Location**: The Fellow will serve virtually and will not be physically located at the Department of State.

**Project Name**: Mapping the New Silk Road (NSR) Initiative.

**Project Description**: Fellow will organize data for the New Silk Road initiative into an Internet-based GIS map of Afghanistan and surrounding region with hypertext links to project details. This online map will become an important research tool for desk officers and posts abroad to quickly reference and summarize the status of NSR projects.

**Background**: The New Silk Road initiative was envisioned as a means for Afghanistan to integrate further into the region by resuming traditional trading routes and reconstructing significant infrastructure links. This multi-faceted initiative includes developing regional energy markets, trade and transport, customs, and border operations, and people-to-people diplomacy.

**Program Requirements**: The precepts of the Virtual Fellows Program call for Fellows to have a high degree of administrative, professional, or technical knowledge/experience and a minimum of five years of professional experience that is directly applicable to the assigned task.

**Project-specific Knowledge, Skills, or Abilities**:
- Estimated two weeks to create and refine map that can be embedded into a Department website;
- Ability to develop web-based embedded maps that depict NSR initiative-related projects, information, and ideas using GIS concepts and technology (e.g., Google Maps, ArcGIS Online, etc.);
- Knowledge of general cartographic principles and methods;
- Ability to create a simple database and perform data-entry;
- Written and verbal communication skills to liaise with SCA/RA on the status of the project, as well as provide and implement feedback and guidance;
- Some familiarity with geography of Afghanistan and region preferred;
- Background in geography, cartography, computer science, or related field.

**Clearance**: The Fellow <u>must be a U.S. citizen</u> and must receive a Public Trust determination <u>prior to starting</u> his/her service. The Virtual Fellows Program staff will work with the accepted candidate to obtain the Public Trust determination. (Note: A candidate is <u>NOT required</u> to have a Public Trust determination <u>prior to applying</u> for this project.)

**Remuneration**: The Virtual Fellow will be appointed to the federal civil service as an intermittent, unpaid consultant. The Department assumes no responsibility for providing any salary or benefits to the Fellow in connection with his/her participation in the Program.